

AA-32, Baron de Kalb Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
Capsule Summary

The monument to Baron de Kalb stands on the south side of the State House grounds in Annapolis. The heroic scale bronze statue of the baron faces south from a granite pedestal, which carries a bronze inscription tablet on the front, a bronze Maryland shield on the west side and a bronze Delaware shield on the east side. The name "DE KALB" is carved in relief on the front of the plinth below the pedestal.

The Baron de Kalb Monument is significant for its commemoration of General Johann de Kalb, who led Maryland and Delaware troops of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. The monument is also a significant example of the work of the Baltimore sculptor Ephraim Keyser.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. AA-32

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Baron de Kalb Monument

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number State House ☐ not for publication

city, town Annapolis ☐ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other commemorative

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland, c/o MD Commission on Artistic Property

street & number MD State Archives, 350 Rowe Blvd. telephone no.: (410) 974-3914

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-32

**Condition**

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

\_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See 7.1 Description

## 8. Significance

Survey No. AA-32

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1886 **Builder/Architect** Ephraim Keyser, sculptor

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☒ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See 8.1 Significance

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-32

Annapolis Evening Capital. 14 August 1886.

Harper's Weekly. 28 August 1886.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Annapolis, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary consists of a 5' square centered on the monument.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Kurtz, Monuments Survey Administrator

organization Maryland HHistorical Trust

date 17 September 1998

street & number 100 Community Place

telephone (410) 514-7648

city or town Annapolis

state MD 21032

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

AA-32, Baron de Kalb Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
7.1 Description

The monument to Baron de Kalb stands on the south side of the State House grounds in Annapolis. The heroic scale bronze statue faces south from a Maryland granite pedestal with a bronze inscription tablet on the front, a bronze Maryland shield on the west side and a bronze Delaware shield on the east side.

The baron is depicted in a dynamic pose of command, with sword unsheathed and held aloft in his right hand, his left hand holding the scabbard as he glances over his right shoulder. His left knee bends as he props his foot on a rock before him. The whole composition stands on a low bronze plinth which is signed on the west side, "E. KEYSER. FEC. 1885." The east side of the plinth is inscribed, "CAST BY/ G. B. BASTIANELLI/ ROMA 1886."

The smooth, unpolished granite pedestal is square in plan. It has a deep molded cornice with cavetto and cyma recta moldings, and is enriched with an astragal on the inscription die just above the tablet and shields. The inscription on the bronze tablet reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
BARON DE KALB  
KNIGHT OF THE ROYAL ORDER OF  
MILITARY MERIT BRIGADIER OF THE  
GENERAL IN THE SERVICE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAVING SERVED WITH HONOR AND  
REPUTATION FOR THREE YEARS HE GAVE  
A LAST AND GLORIOUS PROOF OF HIS  
ATTACHMENT TO THE LIBERTIES OF  
MANKIND AND THE CAUSE OF AMERICA  
IN THE ACTION NEAR CAMDEN IN THE  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON THE  
SIXTEENTH OF AUGUST 1780 WHERE  
LEADING ON THE TROOPS OF THE  
MARYLAND AND DELAWARE LINES AGAINST  
SUPERIOR NUMBERS AND ANIMATING THEM  
BY HIS EXAMPLE TO DEEDS OF VALOR  
HE WAS PIERCED WITH MANY WOUNDS AND  
ON THE NINETEENTH FOLLOWING EXPIRED  
IN THE 48TH YEAR OF HIS AGE  
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA IN GRATITUDE TO HIS ZEAL

AA-32, Baron de Kalb Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
7.2 Description

SERVICE AND MERIT HAVE ERECTED  
THIS MONUMENT<sup>1</sup>

A bronze Maryland shield in high relief fills the die block on the west side. It is framed with volutes and ribbons which are inscribed "CRESCITE ET MULTIPLICAMINI," ("grow and be multiplied"). The east side of the die is filled with a similarly embellished shield of Delaware, which features a shock of wheat, ears of corn and an ox. The ribbons are inscribed, "LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE."

The die is set off from a tall plinth with inverted cavetto and torus moldings. On the front of the plinth the name "DE KALB" is carved in raised letters. The stepped base below the plinth has three levels; the first (lowest) base is rockfaced.

A bronze plaque is set flush with the ground in front of the monument and just inside the low brick wall and sidewalk which rim State Circle. An identical plaque is set along a brick walkway which runs between the rear of the monument and the State House. Both are inscribed in raised letters:

BARON JOHANN DE KALB  
BORN IN GERMANY, 1721  
MAJOR GENERAL IN THE AMERICAN ARMY  
DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. KILLED  
WHILE VALIANTLY LEADING MARYLAND AND  
DELAWARE TROOPS AGAINST SUPERIOR  
NUMBERS AT THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN IN  
SOUTH CAROLINA, AUGUST 19, 1780.

In January of 1990, the State House Trust contracted with Art, Research and Technology, Inc. to repair the sword, which had been damaged by vandals. In August of 1990 the monument was washed and the bronze statue and plaques were waxed by the same conservators. In the autumn of 1990 the sword was vandalized again. The State House Trust hired a local sculptor, Deborah Banker, to fabricate and install a replacement.

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<sup>1</sup>The Columbia Encyclopedia and Harper's Weekly of 28 August 1886, cite De Kalb's birth date as 29 June 1721, making him 59 years of age at his death, not 48 as stated on the monument.

## AA-32, Baron de Kalb Monument

Anne Arundel County

### 8.1 Significance

The Baron de Kalb Monument is significant for its commemoration of General Johann de Kalb, who led Maryland and Delaware troops of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. The monument is also a significant example of the work of the Baltimore sculptor Ephraim Keyser.

Johann Kalb (1721-1780), born in Huttendorf, Germany, served France in the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years War, and as a secret agent in the English colonies of America.<sup>2</sup> He offered his services to the Continental representatives at Paris in 1776, and persuaded Lafayette and fifteen other French officers to join the cause. He arrived here with Lafayette in 1777.<sup>3</sup> Known as Baron de Kalb, he was made a general and served with Washington at Valley Forge. De Kalb was second in command under Horatio Gates in the Carolina campaign when he died from wounds received at the Battle of Camden.<sup>4</sup>

The U.S. House of Representatives resolved in 1780 to erect a monument to de Kalb; in 1818 the Maryland Legislature's proposed revival of the resolution to place the monument in Annapolis was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives, which declined to act on it. A monument designed by Robert Mills was erected to de Kalb at Camden about 1824.<sup>5</sup> In 1883, a resolution was introduced to the Annapolis City Council; following appeals to the Legislature, the U.S. Congress and Senate, it was ultimately approved by the president.<sup>6</sup> The de Kalb monument was dedicated on August 16, 1886.<sup>7</sup> The cost of \$10,000 was paid by Congress.<sup>8</sup>

The Capital notes that the sculptor Ephraim Keyser (1850-1937) was selected "on account of his professional prominence," and because he was a Marylander. Keyser was trained

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<sup>2</sup>William Bridgwater and Seymour Kurtz, ed., The Columbia Encyclopedia Third Edition (New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1967), 1107-1108.

<sup>3</sup>Harper's Weekly, 28 August 1886, 549.

<sup>4</sup>Bridgwater and Kurtz, 1108.

<sup>5</sup>John C. Van Horne, ed., The Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, vol. 3, 1811-1820 (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1988), 979-980.

<sup>6</sup>Annapolis Evening Capital, 14 August 1886.

<sup>7</sup>Harper's Weekly, 549.

<sup>8</sup>Morris L. Radoff, The State House at Annapolis (Annapolis: The Hall of Records Commission, 1972), 68n.



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8.2 Significance

in Baltimore and Germany and worked for a time in Rome and New York; the de Kalb sculpture was modelled in Rome and cast by G. B. Bastianelli. The Maryland granite pedestal was designed by Keyser.<sup>9</sup>

Keyser joined the faculty of the Maryland Institute, College of Art in 1892 and served as director of the Rinehart School of Sculpture from 1900 to 1923.<sup>10</sup> Two of his pupils were Hans Schuler and J. Maxwell Miller, whose sculptures are also found in Annapolis. Keyser's works include the tomb for President Arthur in Albany, New York, and in Baltimore the George H. Rohe Tablet at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Building, portrait busts of John W. McCoy and Sidney Lanier at Johns Hopkins University, and "The Rose" at the Maryland Institute. A number of private memorials by Keyser are found in the Baltimore Hebrew Cemetery.

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<sup>9</sup>Harper's Weekly, 549.

<sup>10</sup> Maryland Institute, College of Art and Peabody Institute of the City of Baltimore, The Rinehart School of Sculpture: 75th Anniversary Catalogue 1896-1971 (Baltimore: Maryland Institute, College of Art, 1971).

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Anne Arundel County

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance, A. D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Military and Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Object

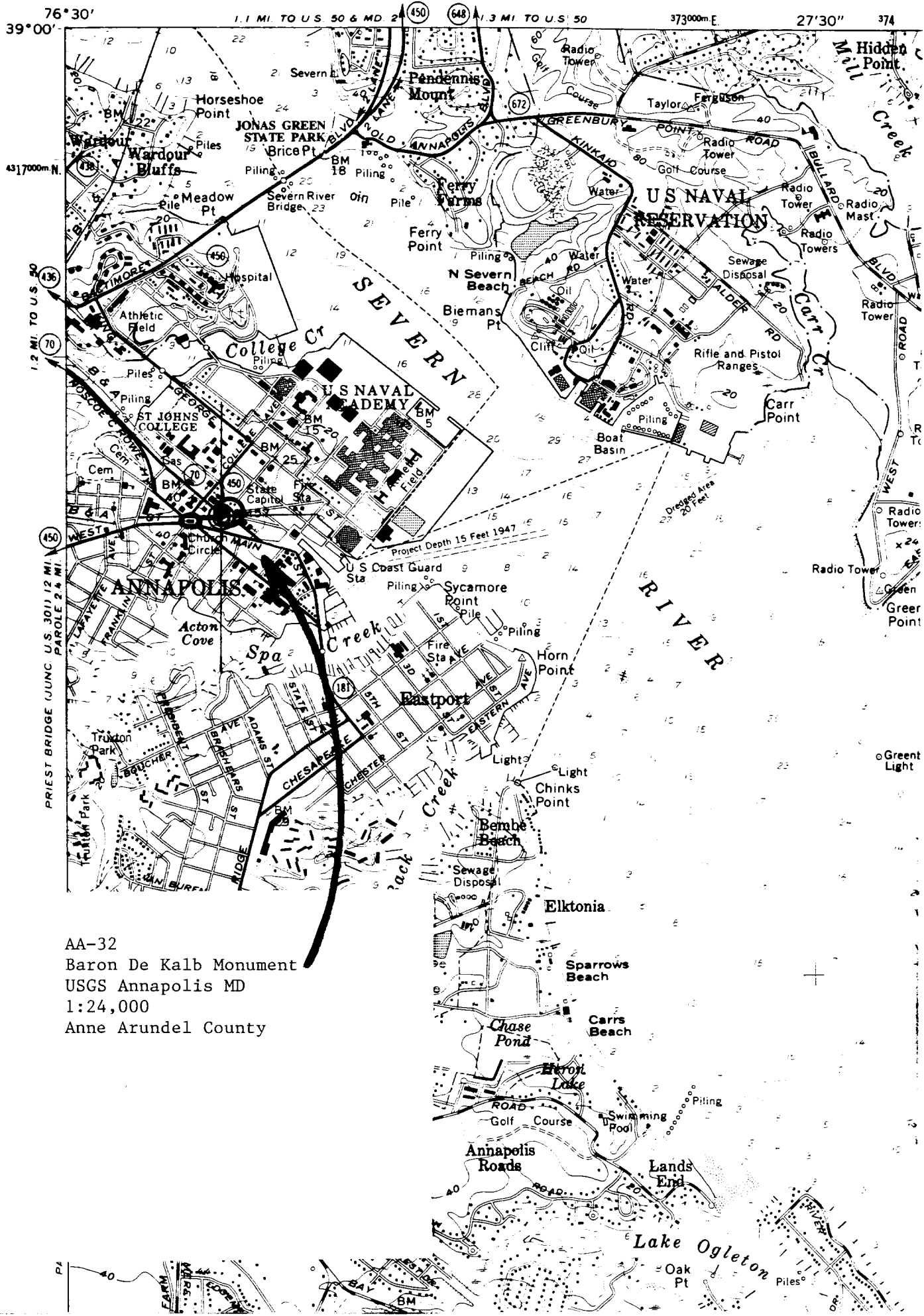
Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): RECREATION AND  
CULTURE/monument

Known Design Source(s): Ephraim Keyser (Sculptor)  
G. B. Bastianelli (Foundry)

662 11 SE  
ROUND BAY

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



AA-32  
Baron De Kalb Monument  
USGS Annapolis MD  
1:24,000  
Anne Arundel County



AA-32

BARON DE KALB MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

9/97

NEG - MD SHPO

S-E ELEV.

1/3



AA-32

BARON DE KAUB MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

9/97

NEG - MD SHPO

E. ELEV.

2/3





AA-32

BARON DE KALB MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO. MD

N. KURTZ

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NEG - MD SHPO

W. ELEV.

3/3